

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, April 1881, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by A. Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell Melville House — Brantford, April somethingth, 1881. My darling May:

If you could only see the condition of emptiness and discomfort to which all here are reduced by the sale of household effects, etc. — your heart would be touched and you would do all you could to make my father and mother comfortable in Washington until the Georgetown house is ready. If it were not for you my little wife I would at once throw open my house to all with a shout of welcome that would prove how much I appreciate the trouble they are taking and the sacrifices they are making in order to be near me. My goodness! If I were to do this wouldn't you soon have “piles of people in your best doring-room” as old Mr. Mitchell would express it.

I don't think however it would be right to flood you with visitors at the present time — but I am afraid that I shall have to explain to my father and mother why I think so?!!!!!!!!!!

Shall I do so? — Yes — No — Well perhaps. What else can I do? I must either seem uncordial to my own father and mother or offer a sufficient explanation mustn't I? I have already told my father of your flagrant treachery! — so that he understands that the presence of a portion of our party in Washington at the present time — would not be acceptable to you — and this will lead probably to a delay in the completion of the family reunion in the District of Columbie. My father will probably come on with the hired boy — leaving my mother and cousins to follow. I am by no means sure that any of my cousins care to enter into the United States — but we 2 shall see! My father has sold off everything — and the only thing left here — is poor “Willie” the dog. A most forlorn and disreputable looking beast — but full of love for his master — and foreboding for the future.

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He seems to be quite conscious of some impending change and keeps close to my father as much as to say — “Take me with you — I have been your faithful friend and companion for eleven years — don't forsake me now in my old age — no person here will care for an old mangey collie-dog like me — but you know how faithful I have been in the past — don't forsake me now.”

Moved by considerations of this kind my father had determined as a last duty to his faithful Willie to see him decently interred !

The boy had instructions to prepare a grave and my father discussed with his friends the question of the most painless method of extinction. And all the time poor Willie lay at his master's feet with his big nose resting upon his knee and his black eyes fixed mournfully upon his face. But fate ordered it otherwise. At the last moment a kind-hearted neighbor (Mrs. Nelson) took pity on the poor beast, and offered him an asylum at her farm and we feel sure that in spite of his disreputable appearance he will be kindly treated when we are gone.

I am going out to Carrie's this afternoon and intend to leave tomorrow morning (Sunday) for Boston — in which case I will reach there Monday morning about 9:30.

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I shall stop at the Tremont House — so telegraph me there if you have anything to say. I only had time enough in New York to get some dinner and go to the Grand Central Depot.

If you are anxious that I should see your Uncle Richard personally — I can stop over in New York on my way back and spend a few days with the Grossmans ???!

What do you say to that my jealous little wife?

By the bye I have just made a great discovery. I have hitherto looked upon you as my own sweet little May but I have just discovered that you are Dora Grossman !!

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Prove it do you say? — Nothing easier. If your words are to be relied upon — you love me — don't you dear. But if this is true — why then it follows that — you are Dora Grossman! (you adore a gross man) Ha! ha!

Your loving, Alec. [???] Kiss for Elsie [??] Kiss for baby Kind regards to Lina and A Great big hug for yourself. AGB